



News Release

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West Nile virus: Second Western Washington bird tests positive

Discovery of infected crow in Lewis County reflects increased risk for people

OLYMPIA — A crow collected in the Mossyrock area of Lewis County has tested positive for West Nile virus — the second detection of the virus in Western Washington this year.

This additional indication of West Nile virus activity in Western Washington means a greater risk for people to become infected if they don't take precautions. It's the most recent evidence of the virus on the state's west side. An infected crow was found in Mason County in July.

The state's first confirmed human West Nile infection this year was announced last week — a Klickitat County man in his 50s. Other cases this week include two dead birds from Franklin County, the first bird detections in that county's history, and six Eastern Washington horses.

In people, mild symptoms include fever, headache, and body aches. A few people may develop severe symptoms that include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis, and coma. In rare cases, it can be fatal.

To protect yourself from West Nile virus infection, avoid mosquito bites by staying indoors at dawn and dusk if possible, and using repellent. Standing water can become mosquito habitat, so don't let it collect. Dump it or replace it twice a week.

Current figures on the state's [West Nile virus](#) Web site indicate the virus has been detected in 23 horses and 265 mosquito samples in Eastern Washington counties: Adams, Grant, Benton, Franklin, Kittitas, and Yakima. Statewide this year, eight birds have tested positive among 64 tested overall. Those numbers will rise when new figures are posted by Tuesday.

People who find dead birds may [report them online](#).

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